



MARICOPA COUNTY

# Animal Care & Control

September 2002

Volume 5, Issue 9



## Inside this issue:

ACC nationally recognized	2
Remembering 9/11	2
Silent No Longer	3
Who says, "It can't be done"?	4
Mesa Cats	5
Community Response	5
Art For The Animals	6
Something Good Campaign	6
Have you heard the news?	7
Start your own Sanctuary	7

Want to become a member of the coolest new animal welfare organization in the Maricopa County? Call *Friends of Animal Care & Control* At 602-840-2843



## Maricopa County Humanitarian Award Presented to Sonora Veterinary Specialists

By Ed Boks

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors presented the wonder doctors and staff of **Sonora Veterinary Specialists** with Maricopa County's prestigious Humanitarian Award at the formal Board meeting on Wednesday, September 4th.

**Since partnering with Sonora Veterinary Specialists one year ago, Maricopa County has not euthanized a single well tempered, injured animal.**

Before **Sonora Veterinary Specialists** came into our life injured animals had no hope of survival. A year ago all injured animals were labeled "unadoptable" and euthanized.

Today, injured and even severely injured pets are routinely triaged by AC&C's Medical Team and

transferred to **Sonora Veterinary Specialists** where they are individually named, treated, rehabilitated, and returned to AC&C's world famous Adoption Program. In the past year 100% of the animals sent to **Sonora Veterinary Specialists** were adopted into loving homes after they recovered.

**Sonora Veterinary Specialists** treated over 300 sick and injured animals that would have been euthanized if not for their compassionate intervention.

Veterinarians in the community often refer to AC&C as the "train wreck" because of the complicated nature of the injuries sustained by so many of the animals we rescue from the streets of our cities and towns.

Examples of severely injured

animals that are alive in loving homes today because of miracles performed by **Sonora Veterinary Specialists** include:

**Scrappy Do:** a dog hit by a car with multiple fractures in both of his back legs that required several surgeries to fix and many months of rehabilitation.

**Jason,** an emaciated Chesapeake Bay Retriever that was unable to use his right front leg due to nerve damage.

**Sonora Veterinary Specialists** corrected this problem by replacing Jason's damaged nerves with new nerve implants.

**Shelby** a Cocker Spaniel mix found with chemical burns

(Continued on page 4)

## My Sister's Closet Challenges Local Businesses

By Ann Siner

September 11 is a day when everyone wants to do something special to honor those that died one year ago. Many will give money and time to the Red Cross, to firefighters and police officers, and to other organizations that helped suffering people and families on that day.

Please join businesses and individuals on 9-11-02 in honoring Sirius, the canine companion of a New York City police officer that was on watch that fateful day in tower two. When the first plane hit the tower, Sirius' han-

dler took him to the basement and put him in a kennel. Sirius died that day in his kennel waiting for his handler to return. His handler did escape the building.

Sirius represents canine companions that have given their lives, without choice, to help humans.

All 8 locations of **My Sister's Closet** and **My Sister's Attic** will donate a portion of every sale on Wednesday, September 11th to the Maricopa County Animal Care Centers in honor of pets that serve and protect people. **My Sister's Closet** and **My**

**Sister's Attic** will also set up special donation boxes the entire month of September to collect monetary donations for the homeless and abandoned dogs and cats at County Animal Care Centers.

Donations can be sent to *Friends of Animal Care and Control* (FACCs), at P.O. Box 80739, Phoenix, AZ 85060-0739. FACCs is dedicated to raising funds to end euthanasia of adoptable animals in Maricopa County. Thank you for your support. ♦

I just read the feral dog rescue story in your August Newsletter.

What a story!

But how pathetic for so many dogs to be abandoned.

Thank God they were rescued by AC&C!

Great job to all involved.

*Debra White*  
AC&C Volunteer

Thanks to over 500 people for submitting pictures of their beloved pets to the Desert Dogs/Cool Cats calendar.

The calendar will be available for purchase in mid-October. The cost of the calendar is \$10 and can be purchased at any of the 26

PETsMART stores in Maricopa County and the FACCs on-line store at [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov).

All proceeds from the calendar go to FACCs.

Want to become a member of the coolest new animal welfare organization in the Maricopa County? Call **Friends of Animal Care & Control** At **602-840-2843**

## AC&C recognized across the country...

*An excerpt taken from Chicago-land Tails published June 7, 2002:*

Across the country in Arizona's Maricopa County, Animal Care and Control executive director Ed Boks, who along with Best Friends' Gregory Castle led a seminar on "Coalition-Building Basics," deals with strikingly different demographics. Headquartered in Phoenix, the agency serves 24 cities and towns with a combined population of 3.3 million residents spread over 9,000 square miles, contrasted with Tomkins County's semirural/urban population of 100,000 people. Yet the philosophy of reaching out to the community and building coalitions with diverse groups is the same, and resulted in the county's lowest euthanasia rate in 27 years in 2001 and the highest adoption rate ever, with nearly 22,000 pets placed. Despite the 50 percent drop in the euthanasia rate and the record adoption rate, thousands of the 62,000 animals Maricopa County took in lost their lives. That's what motivates Boks to continually implement creative

programs that tap community resources, such as a foster program that encourages people who want to turn in unweaned kittens and puppies to share responsibility until the animals are ready for adoption; to ask community volunteers to provide food, water and shelter for sterilized, managed cat colonies; to work with 50 training, rescue and other animal organizations to work with and place special-needs animals; and to ask veterinarians to participate in about a half-dozen programs that provide emergency veterinary care for injured animals, spay/neuter services, and assistance in animal cruelty investigations.

### How far we've come since 1995:

*The following excerpt is taken from the September 2002 edition of the national publication "Animal People"*

At the first No-Kill Conference, in Phoenix in 1995, dinner speaker Richard Avanzino outlined how he had come to realize as then-president of the San Francisco SPCA that accepting the job of protecting humans

from animals tends to inhibit a humane society from devoting adequate effort to protecting animals from humans.

Avanzino explained how giving up animal control duties, always conducted at a loss, enable the SF/SPCA to sterilize enough dogs and cats to end population control killing in San Francisco since April 1994.

Hardly anyone imagined in 1995 that many city animal control agencies would now be well ahead of local humane societies in promoting no-kill methods, such as high-volume adoption through the visitor-friendly PETsMART Luv-A-Pet boutiques, neuter/return to reduce feral cat populations, and providing low-cost sterilization service.

Today some of the most enthusiastic boosters of no-kill tactics and goals are animal control directors like Ed Boks, of Phoenix/Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, who has cut the rate of shelter killing and increased adoptions each year since he took the job. ♦

## Remembering 9/11

By Mary Martin, Shelter Medicine Director

On my way to work today, I saw an American flag draped atop Squaw Peak. Someone had to carry it to the top, 1.25 miles. I had not given this anniversary too much thought until I saw that flag. At that moment I was instantly taken back to the morning of 9/11/01. I was driving across the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in Washington D.C. two minutes before an American Airlines plane collided with the Pentagon.

My colleagues and I were attending the American Humane

Association conference in Crystal City, Virginia; walking distance from the Pentagon. I left the conference to do some errands when I heard on the radio that New York and Washington D.C. had been attacked. That moment was the beginning of a long journey for us all, both physical and mental.

Before the attacks our group was not close. Although we respected each other, very often we were at odds on how to do any number of things. What is the best way to care for the ani-

mals in our shelters, what do we feed, what vaccines do we use, who is responsible for... For one very special and terrifying week, all of that disappeared and we came together as a team. We functioned without argument, without ego and with the best interest of the others foremost in our minds. No idea was dismissed without consideration, no upset left invalidated. Personal differences, whether religious, political, or petty, were divisive. (Continued on page 7)



# Silent No Longer – Art Speaks Loudly for Animals

**Silent No Longer**, an exhibition of works by **Cyrus Mejia**, will be on display in the Legacy Gallery of the St George Art Museum from August 16 – October 4, 2002. The opening reception was held on Friday, August 23.

**Cyrus Mejia**, contemporary artist, is one of the founders of **Best Friends Animal Sanctuary**. His art reflects the mission of Best Friends, which is to help bring about the day when every dog and cat born will have a loving home, and there will be no more homeless pets.

This show features recent paintings of animals, viewed from above, looking up at us. By painting their faces larger than life and putting them up at eye level, Mejia brings a view, often

overlooked, sharply into focus.

The exhibition also features an installation of several works from **The 575 Project**, created by Mejia in 2001. Last year five million unwanted pets were put to death in U.S. shelters. That's 13,800 every day, 575 dogs and cats killed every hour. In the tradition of the Holocaust Museum and the Aids Quilt, each piece in the 575 Project is a memorial to the 575 unwanted pets that were euthanized each hour last year.

The public is invited to view this important work at the St George Art Museum, 47 East 200 North, St George, Utah. Admission is free. Museum hours are: Mon. 6-8pm; Tue. -Thurs. 11-6; Fri. 11-8; Sat. 11-6; closed Sundays and holidays. ♦



*I am an  
artist...  
I am here  
to live  
out loud.*

*~ Emile Zola ~*

# Sorry, There's No Budget – It Can't Be Done

By Peter Martin, Licensing Division Supervisor

I'm sure we've all heard this a time or two over the past four years, but how sad that so many of us accept it and give up. The truth of the matter is that money will always follow a vision, but a vision will never follow money. When is the last time you looked at our vision statement?

***We envision the day when:***  
Maricopa County citizens, their property, and neighborhoods will be safe from the dangers and nuisances of irresponsible pet guardianship, and no animal will suffer because of human abuse, neglect, or ignorance, and every pet born will be assured a good home and care all its natural life.

Nowhere in this statement do I see "we envision the day when we can afford....." or "we envision the day when we'll have the money to....." In fact there is nothing in our vision statement about money. Could it be that our vision isn't fueled by money, but, by people? Is it money or people that provide safety from the dangers and nuisances of irresponsible pet guardianship? Is it money or people that can assure us that every pet born will have a good home and care during its natural life?

I'm not denying the fact that we need money to fund our shelters and mission, but we must use creativity and explore venues other than our traditional ways of

thinking and doing business to fulfill our vision. We should constantly entertain ideas, capture and work them through to see if there is a better or more efficient way of doing things.

What are you doing to save money within the organization? What ideas have you had to provide more cost effective ways to attain the same or better result? What have you done to do your part to stay within your division's budget? What is your role in accomplishing our vision?

Are you doing your very best to serve your role? Outside of your daily tasks what have you done to contribute to fulfilling our vision?

Start focusing on our vision, and reaching it with what you have, not on what you don't have. Once you do, success breeds success. Look at what we have accomplished over the past three years compared to the previous 20 – the numbers don't lie. Over the past three years our budget hasn't increased significantly, but we've done more and more each year. As we continue to do so, the money **will** come. People will embrace our vision because of our people and they will want to be a part of it.

After all, money always follows the vision.....♦

## Humanitarian Award presented to Sonora Veterinary Specialists

(Continued from page 1)

over 80% of her body. Shelby's toes had to be amputated due the burns. She required daily therapeutic baths and bandage changes for over three months.

Carmen, a Black Lab mix suffered blunt force trauma to the head, she had a crushed skull with gray matter showing. Carmen required several surgeries and several months of rehabilitation.

Lynn, a Black Lab mix came in with Valley Fever, Tick Fever, and inflammation of the sack surrounding her heart. After recovering from both Valley and Tick Fever, she underwent open-heart surgery and the inflamed sack was removed.

Time would fail me if I were to

tell you of all the broken bones, injured eyes, skin conditions, severe lacerations, de-gloving injuries, liver shunts, and systemic illnesses that **Sonora Veterinary Specialists** successfully treated over the past year for AC&C.

Without question these 300 plus animals would not be living with loving families in every

district, city, and town in Maricopa County today if it were not for the compassionate commitment of the highly skilled veterinarians and staff of **Sonora Veterinary Specialists**.

**Chairman Stapley** presented the Maricopa County Humanitarian Award on behalf of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and AC&C to **Dr. Gilson** and

**Jennifer Gilson** from **Sonora Veterinary Specialists**.

**Mary Martin**, Director of the Shelter Medicine Program, and the AC&C Medical Team were also on hand to thank **Sonora Veterinary Specialists** at this auspicious occasion. ♦



*Chairman Stapley, Dr. Gilson, Ed Boks, Mary Marin and Jennefer Gilson  
Dr. Gilson received the Humanitarian Award for Sonora Veterinary Specialists*



# Future of Mesa cats looks even worse now

BY TAMARA DIETRICH, TRIBUNE COLUMNIST

Mesa is desperately seeking a defining vision. Among the sprawling municipalities that are the East Valley, Mesa is not the one with the town lake, not the one with the ostrich festival, not the one with the upscale galleries, not the one with the Lost Dutchman Mine.

Mesa is the one with statues on Main Street.

And now, it's the one that turns in more stray cats to the county than any other municipality. Not something to brag about at Rotary meetings.

This flood of feral cats will only get worse now that Mesa officials have vetoed a program in which the city picked up feral cats trapped by residents.

Officials canned the program Thursday because when the city turned feral cats over to Maricopa County Animal Care and Control it cost \$61 per furry head.

This doesn't bode well for cats, feral or otherwise.

"I'm afraid there's going to be more abuse, and that will get pets, too," said Diane Brady, Mesa's animal control supervisor, in Thursday's Tribune. "It's not just the feral ones."

The root problem is clueless cat owners who don't spay or neuter their pets, allowing them to breed like rabbits on Viagra, then dumping the excess.

Common sense says municipalities should mandate spaying and neutering of house pets, and whacking lawbreaking owners on the nose with a newspaper, preferably rolled around a crowbar.

Instead, abolishing the program will increase the suffering of feral cats, forcing them to languish and starve and breed, vulnerable to the elements and possible abuse of budding serial killers and deviant children.

The director of county animal control says the best solution is a program called Trap, Neuter and Release used in other cities to cut down on the feral cat populations, basically through attrition. He's right.

But city officials claim the program could cost \$2,000 to \$5,000 a month, and the city doesn't have it.

This is nonsense. The money's there. Find it.

Use some of the utility donations, for instance, which in its first year alone gave the city a windfall of more than \$215,000. The city said

before it wants to use those pennies from heaven to fund programs to prevent poverty, domestic violence and hunger.

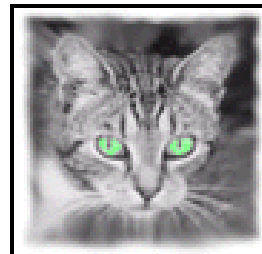
Preventing starving feral cats from overrunning the city before dying painful, likely violent deaths seems appropriate.

And feral cats are yet one more dire need for those millions in tax dollars sucked up by unprincipled alt-fuel car buyers and dealers who knew how to ram a gas-guzzling Suburban through a loophole.

Mesa is trying to shake off a growing reputation — deserved or not — as a mecca for sex offenders. As a downtown that can't attract pedestrian traffic to save its economic life. As a city that couldn't snag the Cardinals football stadium, even when there was no competition.

And now, one more title to add to the pile: The capital city of alley cats.

— Tamara Dietrich is staff columnist and winner of the 2000 Arizona Press Club Don Schellie award for feature columns. E-mail [tdietrich@aztrib.com](mailto:tdietrich@aztrib.com) or call (480) 898-6534. ♦



**Ed Boks** was selected by **Alley Cat Allies** to receive a national award on October 16th (National Feral Cat Day) at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. for the transformational work **Maricopa County** is doing with feral cats.

## Community Response to Tribune Article

Good job AC&C!

*Lorraine Moule, President, National Animal Control Association (NACA)*

Great job AC&C!

*Gregory Castle, Director, No More Homeless Pets in Utah*

Thanks for sending the article about Mesa's feral cats by the Tribune columnist. Way to go! Shame on Mesa!

*Lynda Foro, Administrative Director, National Humane Education Society*

Wow! This article is BIG! SO

glad she wrote it!

*Stacey Candella, Executive Director, PETS911*

Congratulations, sounds like at least someone is listening to reason... good work!

*Beth Needel*

*Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF)*

**The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to endorse TNR as the preferred, humane, non-lethal method for dealing with our communities' feral cats. Let your Supervisor know you appreciate their humane stand. ♦**



# NAKED HORSE GALLERY & THE PAPER PLACE TO HOST “ART FOR ANIMALS” TO BENEFIT FACCS

The **Naked Horse Gallery** and **The Paper Place** announced that they will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “*Art for Animals*” fundraiser on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Marshall Way. Held in conjunction with the start of downtown Scottsdale’s Thursday night art walk season, 10% of the proceeds from sales of artist **Susan Rene’s** work will benefit **Friends of Animal Care & Control** (FACCs).

The mission of FACCs is to raise funds to assist AC&C in their efforts to end senseless pet euthanasia in our community. There is no cost to attend.

“Come join us for a fun and festive art event that supports a wonderful cause,” said Bip

Haley, manager of the Naked Horse Gallery. “Our gallery is dedicated to helping end pet euthanasia by supporting Maricopa County Animal Care & Control’s efforts to increase pet adoptions and fund innovative spay/neuter programs. The event will showcase the paintings of **Susan Rene**’, an artist whose love of animals is strongly evident in many of her works.”

Visitors will be able to view and purchase a wide variety of paintings by **Susan Rene**’ and will be treated to live music and refreshments. As part of the event, directly across the street from the **Naked Horse Gallery** in

front of **The Paper Place**, the public can visit *Maricopa County Animal Care & Control’s Scratch & Sniff Petmobile*. This mobile adoption unit will showcase adorable dogs and cats in need of loving homes.

For more information visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov), [www.nakedhorse.com](http://www.nakedhorse.com) or call 480-947-0221. ♦



*Susan Rene’s “Cool dogs cruising in starlight”*



By Elizabeth Clark

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “*Art for the Animals*”

**Naked Horse Gallery**  
Proudly Presents  
**SUSAN RENE**’

Preview the show at  
[www.nakedhorse.com](http://www.nakedhorse.com)

10% of all art sales  
will benefit

**Friends of Animal Care & Control** (FACCs)

Thursday,  
October 17, 2002  
Six to Nine P.M.

Stroll across the street to

**The Paper Place**  
to meet and adopt special  
furry friends looking for  
new homes!

**Naked Horse Gallery**  
4151 N. Marshall Way #B  
Scottsdale, 85251  
480-947-0221

AC&C participated in the **Something Good Campaign**. I was able to spend some time with our **Something Good Volunteers** and asked them for a quick reflection.

Specifically, I asked if anyone would share what they learned about AC&C. One volunteer shared that she was relieved when she discovered what we do for the animals. She felt our facility was very clean. She went on to say that she is a Hispanic immigrant and much of her family had immigrated here. They were very concerned that she would see horrible things coming to the animal shelter.

Many immigrants come here knowing a very different way of life and have a very different view of animal welfare. She

said in Mexico many of the animals are only fed table scraps and are left to fend for themselves when they become ill because people do not know what to do and there is nowhere for them to turn. When they came to the U.S. they believed the same stories that were told in Mexico were true here too. Which, when considering how concerned her family was, must be quite bad.

She said she will be attending our volunteer orientation to become a regular AC&C Volunteer and she promised to tell her family members and everyone she knew about the wonderful things we do for the animals in our care. She also said if we were to do more informational pieces on the Spanish stations both radio and TV the Hispanic

community would begin to learn how animal welfare in America really is and what it means to be a good pet owner.

What I learned from this was that it is easy to get caught up in all the big things we still plan to do that we can forget that something as simple as feeding and talking to animals can be an unforgettable learning experience that can change the way a person looks at animal welfare. It is so nice to know that the simplest things can make the biggest difference.

Thank God there are wonderful animal welfare organizations like AC&C to help people in America when they have nowhere else to go.

Americans truly are fortunate and that is Something Good! ♦

# Have you heard the News?

AC&C has a new web site! Visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov) and check out all the up to date information on AC&C, its programs and animal care information. Pictures of all adoptable and lost and found animals are now on line too...

Thanks to Lori Barber, AC&C volunteer and Tim Sanger, AC&C staff for all their hard work on this project.

AC&C logo merchandise can now be purchased on line. Visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov) to find great wearable merchandise for you and your pet. A percentage of all proceeds go to Friends of

Animal Care & Control (FACCs). Visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov) and click on on-line store.

AC&C has a new bi-monthly TV spot partnering with TV Channel 12. Twice a month AC&C staff, and local groomers do an animal make-over on the Tuesday morning show. We take a deserving animal from our facilities and give him/her a new doo while offering animal care tips to the public. Watch for "before" and "after" pictures in future issues. ♦



*Supermodels Mary Martin and Jason Dollins sport AC&C merchandise available on-line at [www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)*

## Remembering 9/11...

*(Continued from page 2)*

We made a strategic plan and followed it.

Our colleagues here at home stayed in close contact with us making sure all the home fires were under control and that we were safe. When the plan appeared not to be working (no luck getting flights home) we put our heads together and came up with a contingency plan (drive

back to Phoenix). During that drive we shared our stories, our feelings, and our fears. We made it home and went our separate ways, not completely realizing how the journey we started that day would continue to this day.

At a staff meeting today attended by that group of individuals that were brought so close together one year ago, I saw how we are

back again on seemingly opposite sides of the table, haggling about who should do what and how it should be done. This is as it should be. One of the great benefits of being an American is the right to challenge, to speak your mind, and on occasion make a fool of yourself. At the same time I realized our little group was a microcosm of the whole country. I found it comforting

to know that if trouble were to strike again, I would be surrounded by such outstanding individuals, such outstanding countrymen. ♦

*"Life begets life.  
Energy creates energy.  
It is by spending  
oneself that one  
becomes rich."  
Sarah Bernhardt*

## Start Your Own Animal Sanctuary

By Jeane Westin of United Animal Nations

At a recent animal advocates conference in Washington, D.C., a woman announced, "I've started my own animal sanctuary." She then numbered the cows, calves, pigs, sheep, chickens and turkeys she had in her sanctuary, until she admitted: "The animals in my personal sanctuary are imaginary - the ones I haven't eaten for the past 22 years."

It is estimated that the average person consumes 2,600 animals (2,568 chickens and turkeys, 33 pigs and sheep and 12 cattle and

calves) in an average lifetime. All animal-loving human beings could build a personal "sanctuary" by simply reducing the number of meat-centered meals they eat each day. By choosing to eliminate meat at just one daily meal for a year, one person could reduce pollution, erosion and greenhouse gases, making a real contribution to the environment.

If that statement is hard to believe, consider this. The Overseas Development Council reports that if Americans were to

reduce their meat consumption by only ten percent it would release enough grain, water and land to feed 60 million people - about the number that go hungry in the world now. One person, who switches to a vegan diet (no animal products at all), releases enough resources to feed 20 people.

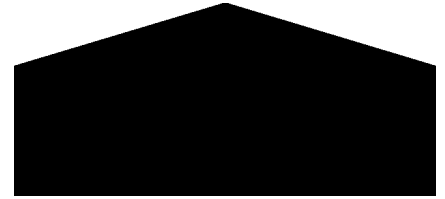
As individuals we may not be able to change everybody's habits, but we can change ourselves. And that's what it will take. ♦

**What a wonderful  
job you are all  
doing.  
So many people  
are so very proud  
of the work that  
AC&C is  
accomplishing.  
Keep up the  
great work!**

*Sincerely,  
Jennifer and Bob Brooks*



Phone: 602-506-2772  
Fax: 602-506-2739  
Email: edbooks@mail.maricopa.gov



*We create happiness by bringing  
pets and people together!*



2323 South 35th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

**Maricopa County  
Animal Care & Control**



*AC&C and Pets911 will be featured in the November issue of Government Technology as a model public/private community program!*

## Three Dogs...

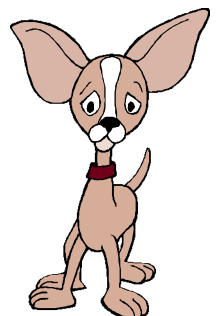
A Doberman, a Collie and a Chihuahua were sitting at a bar. A poodle comes up to the bar and says, "Whoever can use liver and cheese in a sentence I will marry!"

The Doberman thinking he has a chance says, "I LIKE liver and cheese!"

The poodle was not impressed. "Oh please," said the poodle, "you have to do better than that!"

The collie also thinking he has a chance, says, "I HATE liver and Cheese!"

The poodle sighed and said, "That was original." So the Chihuahua pipes up and says, "Liver alone, Cheese mine." ♦



***Adopt a pet from Animal Care & Control today!***  
602-506-PETS

[www.pets.maricopa.gov](http://www.pets.maricopa.gov)